Mike's Copy

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
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JUL 25 2003

Dr. L. Hall Bohlinger, Secretary
Louisiana Department of
Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 4301
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Dr. Bohlinger:

Thank you for your letter of July 1, 2003, forwarding the State of Louisiana's recommendations on air quality designations for the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). We appreciate having your submittal before the July 15, 2003, deadline date established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Assistant Administrator, Jeffrey R. Holmstead. Your letter is an important step toward providing citizens in your state with critical information about air pollution levels in their communities.

Based on the ambient ozone data for the years 2000-2002, you recommended nonattainment status with regard to the 8-hour ozone NAAQS for the following parishes in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston and West Baton Rouge. In addition, although Jefferson Parish has an 8-hour ozone design value of 85 for the years 2000-2002, you have deferred a recommendation on the New Orleans MSA area pending data for the 2003 ozone season. We appreciate your commitment to closely track the 2003 monitoring data and to submit a revised proposal should the data warrant this action. We intend to carefully review the recommendations and work with your staff at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in determining final designations.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Thomas Diggs of my staff at (214) 665-7214.

Sincerely yours,

Richard E. Greene
Regional Administrator

cc: Mr. Robert P. Hannah

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